

## EUROPE FEARS NO WAR

**STOCK QUOTATIONS SHOW CONFIDENCE  
IN THE CONTINUANCE OF PEACE.**

ENGLAND LACKS ALLIES TO BACK HER IN A  
POLICY POPULAR AT HOME—NO SOLUTION OF  
THE LONDON WATER PROBLEM—THE

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, March 13.—Either the stockbrokers do not know what is going on in Europe or the danger of a European war has passed. The stock markets here and on the Continent are stronger

and snow no signs of uneasiness over the success of diplomacy. Nothing is settled respecting Crete, but the excitement is gradually subsiding at Athens, and the conditions favor a compromise. Greece is now delaying negotiations by a supplementary reply and standing out on only one point, namely, that the Cretans shall be allowed to decide their own fate by a plebiscite. An ultimatum from the Powers is predicted early

The collective note was a compromise, the three emperors having accepted reluctantly Lord Salisbury's autonomy scheme, and he in turn having acquiesced in their proposals for a blockade.

St. James's Hall last night witnessed an enthusiastic demonstration of popular sympathy with the Greeks; but Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who moved the resolution, is not his father, and Canon Gore, while a good Lenten preacher in

Westminster Abbey, was not designed by nature as the leader of a political crusade. The Government were called upon not to tolerate any settlement of the Eastern question which would

leave the island in any real subjection to the Sultan; but the Foreign Office is known to have this as the objective point of its diplomacy. The truth is that the Hellenist sympathizers in England have been marching more rapidly than the

Greeks themselves, who have halted and shown signs of wavering; hence there is something like a reaction against what is called the party of agitation and meddlesome activity in foreign affairs. The Liberals are taunted with Glad-

stone's own example in 1886, when he took an active part in coercive measures against Greece and sanctioned a blockade. The parallel is not perfect, but the precedent is a troublesome one for the Liberals to answer. Lord Salisbury, moreover, has supplied his followers with a useful phrase in describing the Powers as the European trustees. It means as little as a tinkling cymbal, for what have these trustees

The Greeks would be less conciliatory if they had a trustworthy ally, which apparently they have not. The three western Powers, by acting together, could break up the European concert, and leave the Greeks in control of Crete; but Italy is not willing to abandon the Triple Alliance.

Salisbury would not be ringing the changes on the obligations of trustees if England had allies in Western Europe ready to stand with her.

The unexpected may happen—for instance, the downfall of the French Ministry in the Cretan debate next week, or some sudden explosion on the Macedonian frontier; but all signs point to a diplomatic lull with an ultimate compromise.

either with or without a blockade of the Piræus. Meanwhile, civil war continues in the island, the Cretans being as ferocious as the Mussulmans. The rescue of the garrison at Kandamos by a force of European marines has reflected great credit upon the British Consul-General, Sir A. Biliotti, who directed the international movement. He is a Levantine Greek who is unpopular in the island.

The Government expect to pass the Education bill through committee by Thursday night, and to a final reading before the end of March. This will clear the ground for the Employers' Liability bill. Last year a progressive scheme for the

purchase of the London water companies was set aside in favor of an absurd Government bill which was not seriously pressed this year. The same scheme is rejected after five hours' debate, and a Royal Commission is appointed to report on the whole subject. As this is the seventh Commission which has performed the same service, this is equivalent to postponing action indefinitely and allowing the water companies to

long respite. Mr. Chaplin was unwilling to undertake the framing of a bill for dealing with the water question, and proposed this method of dropping it. Viscount Cross, who listened to the debate from the peers' gallery, probably appreciated his discretion; seventeen years ago he himself brought in a water bill involving a

scheme of purchase for \$18,000,000, and the measure was one of the chief causes of the Ministerial defeat before the country. A progressive scheme with eight purchase bills would have cost anywhere between \$50,000,000 and \$100,000,000. What the ultimate expense of acquiring municipal control of the London water supply will be nobody ventures to conjecture. The Liberals will profit by the Government's failure to deal with the most important question connected with the future Greater London. Their political gain will be immediate if last year's water famine in the East End be renewed this summer, because the Government

It has become a Unionist habit to rail at the progressives of the London County Council as a

body of machine politicians, eager to usurp authority and carry out impracticable theories; they can hardly be considered dangerous agitators when the Moderates in the Council have power to tie their hands, and Parliament can be depended upon to keep a strong brake upon the political machine. In reality, the Conservative leaders are opposed to further progress in the direction of the unification of the London gov-

ernment and the abolition of vestry rule. They assume with Mr. Chamberlain that London is too large to be governed efficiently by a single body, and that, therefore, the incorporation

of a series of separate cities will be a wiser policy. The discussion of metropolitan questions has been deferred until they are now unmanageable, and London is without power of obtaining what every other great city in the world already

The testimony of Sir Graham Bower in the South African Inquiry would tell heavily

against Cecil Rhodes if that Colonial Jingo had not already made a clean breast of his responsibility for the raid and his repudiation of confidential relations. The inquiry no longer interests the public, Rhodes having disappeared from view. Much more interest is taken in the arguments for the Queen's Commemoration in

June. The route of the procession is a popular one with the masses; the only protest against it comes from the Colonial Offices and the occupants of flats in Victoria-st. An open-air service outside St. Paul's was suggested by the Bishop of Winchester, but the clerical element insists